

**ANDREW E. DINNIMAN**

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19TH DISTRICT

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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

February 25, 2019

**COMMITTEES**

EDUCATION, MINORITY CHAIR  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
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TRANSPORTATION  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY

Mr. Paul Metro, Manager Gas Safety  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RECEIVED**

MAR - 4 2019

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
AND ENFORCEMENT

Dear Paul,

On January 25, 2019, I sent the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) correspondence requesting the termination of operation of the 12-inch natural gas liquids pipeline operated by Sunoco in West Whiteland Township (Chester County). To date, I have yet to receive a reply from the PUC regarding my request.

As you are well aware, since November of 2017, my constituents residing on Lisa Drive in West Whiteland Township have experienced the regular development of sinkholes on their properties related to pipeline construction. While the PUC has required Sunoco to routinely cease operation of the antiquated Mariner East 1 pipeline following conditions of subsidence, I must once again strongly urge the PUC to take similar action in relation to Sunoco's 12-inch workarround pipeline located in direct proximity to active sinkhole formation. Any action short of this would serve, in my opinion, as a direct PUC endorsement of the safety of the 12-inch pipeline in an area plagued by geologic instability.

Further, I must take this opportunity to raise a number of issues that have come to my attention over the past month since my last letter. Due to the numerous work stoppages following frequent environmental damage and regulatory violations associated with Sunoco's construction of the Mariner East projects, some segments of pipeline slated for installation have been exposed to the elements for over twenty-four months. Recent research indicates quantitatively that direct sunlight exposure over similar periods of time significantly impacted the thickness, flexibility, and loss of gloss due to degradation of pipeline coating on these stockpiled pipes. In addition, it is my understanding that citizens have brought to the PUC's attention segments of pipe damaged by rust, corrosion, and scoring due to improper storage

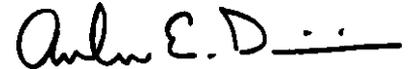
techniques. As corrosion caused by imperfections in pipeline conditions is a leading cause of catastrophic pipeline failure, I strongly urge the PUC to address these concerns and ensure any pipelines incorporated in the Mariner East network are held to industry best management practices and standards.

Finally, it has come to my attention that on February 20, 2019, residents in West Whiteland Township received notifications from Sunoco that construction along Shoen Road will reconvene within 3 weeks. Setting aside questions regarding the timing of this notification, I am extremely concerned that conditions at this drill site have not been adequately resolved following construction damage caused by Sunoco in July of 2017. Specifically, it is my understanding that excess groundwater with a rust coloration (which developed immediately following the impact to private wells) continues to flow along the Mariner East 1 right of way. Further, I must inquire what steps have been taken over the past year and a half to address the potential impact to any properties within 450 feet of the pipeline easement that continue to rely on private well drinking water. It seems rash and illogical that the PUC would allow for construction to commence in communities with known private wells and a history of drinking water turbidity attributed to Sunoco drilling.

Individually, each of these issues raise serious public safety concerns. Collectively, they demonstrate a continued pattern of disregard to community well-being in favor of project completion at any cost. I respectfully urge the PUC to take these matters seriously and act to ensure Pennsylvania citizens do not continue to be in harm's way.

Once again, thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter of public safety.

Sincerely,



Andrew E. Dinniman  
State Senator – 19<sup>th</sup> District

AED:dcv

Cc: June Perry, Legislative Liaison

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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

January 25, 2019

**COMMITTEES**

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Mr. Paul Metro, Manager Gas Safety  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Paul,

As you may expect, I have received a significant increase in the volume and intensity of direct requests from my constituents regarding the safe operation of the Mariner East Pipeline following the development of yet another sinkhole in West Whiteland Township (Chester County). As this most recent subsidence exposed and destabilized the antiquated Mariner East 1 pipeline, I was somewhat relieved to hear that volatile natural gas liquids being transported under extreme pressure was vacated until the integrity of this pipeline and the surrounding geology could be confirmed.

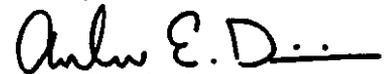
However, as you are well aware, this was far from the first time that the geologic stability of the Mariner East easement has come into question. In fact, by my count, sinkholes have occurred in the Lisa Drive community twice before; prompting months of stabilization efforts by Sunoco that have clearly produced less than adequate results. With this in mind, it causes great concern that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC) has allowed for the continued operation of the similarly located 12-inch pipeline in West Whiteland Township. The 12-inch pipeline path is located within the same problematic geology and is buried mere feet of at least one prior sinkhole. As such, I must emphatically request that the PA PUC terminate operation of the 12-inch natural gas liquids pipeline until the geologic integrity of the pipeline's easement has been fully and completely ensured.

As was pointed out by residents at a recent West Whiteland Township Supervisors meeting dedicated to community pipeline concerns, we are lucky. I shudder to think that it is only through sheer circumstance that this most recent sinkhole did not result in a catastrophic failure of the Mariner East 1 natural gas liquids pipeline. Action taken by the PA PUC or

Sunoco did not prevent this disaster, it was luck and many constituents in my Senate district are concerned when our luck will run out. To continue to allow a cobbled together, outdated, pipeline constructed during the Roosevelt Administration to continue operations through a high consequence community would be nothing short of irresponsible and negligent. This makeshift, workaroud 12-inch pipeline already has a long history of leaks, including 33,516 gallons of gasoline as recently as mid-June and a potential failure during hydrostatic testing in West Whiteland Township that, to the best of the public's knowledge, was never fully investigated by the PA PUC. It is my ardent opinion that any one of the before mention factors should be sufficient justification to revoke service and I strongly urge the Commission to act by shutting down this potential hazard.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter of public safety.

Sincerely,



Andrew E. Dinniman  
State Senator – 19<sup>th</sup> District

AED:dcv

Cc: June Perry, Legislative Liaison



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
400 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO OUR FILE

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Andrew E. Dinniman  
Senate of Pennsylvania  
182 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Senator Dinniman:

Thank you for your letters to Paul Metro dated January 25, 2019 and February 25, 2019 regarding pipeline safety concerns in West Whiteland Township, Chester County. In consultation with the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (Bureau or BI&E), here is the following information we can provide.

As previously discussed with you, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (PUC) BI&E enforces the federal and state regulations as they apply to jurisdictional pipeline operators. I&E's Safety Division has been actively inspecting Sunoco/Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) pipelines in Chester County.

The BI&E Safety Division remains data driven in its decision making. This data is gathered through inspections including the more than 200 inspection days devoted to Sunoco/ETP in 2018. The division has taken compliance actions against Sunoco/ETP and has stopped the ME1 pipeline from operating twice based on the data obtained during the investigations.

The most recent Lisa Drive subsidence exposed the ME1 pipeline, but at no time was this pipeline destabilized nor did the pipeline fail. The BI&E Safety Division had previously required Sunoco/ETP to install strain gauges on the ME1 pipeline on Lisa Drive to detect any movement of the pipeline. This data is transmitted to a control room in San Antonio, Texas where it is constantly monitored. The BI&E Safety staff reviews this data daily. In addition, Sunoco/ETP conducts top of pipeline elevations surveys weekly to ensure that pipeline elevations remain unchanged. This data is also reviewed by BI&E weekly. Furthermore, there are Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) devices located on the pipeline that monitor, gather and process real-time data, which alert the control room operators immediately of a pipeline failure or any conditions that exceed the predetermined thresholds. At this time, the BI&E Safety Division is continuing its investigation of the Lisa Drive subsidence and will take appropriate actions based on an evaluation of the data.

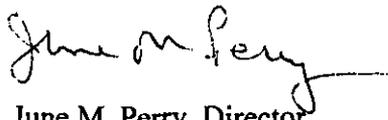
In addition, your letter also references pipeline segments slated for installation that have been exposed to the elements. The BI&E Safety Division has inspected those pipelines as well as several sites where these pipelines are stored. It is important to understand that before any pipeline is permitted to be installed, several safety actions are required of a pipeline operator such as Sunoco/ETP. For example, the pipeline is pressure tested above ground for four hours. The pipeline coating is inspected, and any necessary repairs are made. Ends of the pipeline that are uncoated and have surface rust are thoroughly cleaned prior to welding. After the welding is

complete, the welded sections are sand blasted and pipeline coating applied to prevent any corrosion. Once the pipeline is installed in the ground, the pipeline is repressure tested for eight hours or more at a pressure exceeding the maximum operating pressure. Cathodic protection is then applied to the pipeline to prevent corrosion. The cathodic protection is verified bi-monthly. The operator is responsible to ensure their pipeline components are adequate and have proper coating. Please also note that the Safety Division has spoken to the pipeline coating manufacturer and determined that prolong exposure to sunlight has minimal to no effect on the coating. And, as you may know, Sunoco is undertaking a multi-million-dollar cathodic protection upgrade in Pennsylvania as a result of I&E Safety staff actions.

Finally, your letter discusses the impact to water supplies along the Mariner East right-of-way. The PUC does not have authority with regards to drinking water, and the PUC does not issue drilling permits. Those matters fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection.

The BI&E Safety Division takes its pipeline safety responsibilities seriously and welcomes your concerns and comments. Since you currently have a formal complaint pending before the Commission against Sunoco Pipeline LP at Docket Number C-2018-3001451, please know I have sent a copy of your correspondence to Mr. Metro and this response to the Secretary of the Commission for inclusion in the formal complaint docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "June M. Perry", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

June M. Perry, Director  
Office of Legislative Affairs

cc: Richard Kanaskie, Director, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Paul Metro, Manager, Pipeline and Electric Safety Division  
Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta

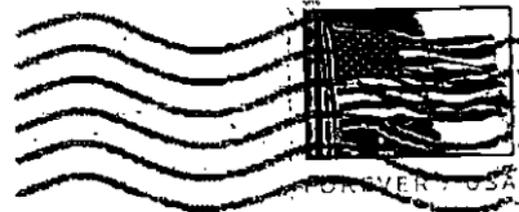


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